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REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-9, 11-12, and 16-30 have been amended to more particularly define the invention.

It is noted that the claim amendments herein or later are not made to distinguish the invention over the prior art or narrow the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein or later should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claims 3, 6-8, 11-12, 18, 21-23 and 29 are objected to because of informalities. With respect to the prior art rejections, claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15-17, 24, 25, 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Montlick (U.S. Patent No. 5,561,446) in view of Tanaka (U.S. Patent No. 5,249,296). Claims 4, 5, 11, 14, 19, 20 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Montlick in view of Tanaka and further in view of Snell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,724,985). Claim 30 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Montlick in view of Tanaka and further in view of "Flatland: New Dimensions in Office Whiteboards" (CHI'99, Proceedings of the SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems; 1999, pages 346-353), hereinafter "Flatland."

These rejections are respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

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I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

An exemplary aspect of the invention, as recited in claim 1, is directed to an application method for supporting a medical treatment system. The system includes an input/display device including input means and display means, and a storage. The method includes the input/display device receiving input by handwriting, storing data in the storage substantially all as medical data, the input means moving in a sliding manner on each sheet label displayed at particular positions on a screen by the display means, and the input/display device reading, when the input means moves onto each sheet label, data stored in the storage in relation to each sheet label from the storage, and displaying the data by conducting a change-over operation for each sheet label.

Another aspect of the invention, as recited in claim 9, is directed to an application method for supporting a medical treatment system. The system includes an input/display device including input means and display means and a storage. The method includes one of a first operation comprising the input means moving in a sliding manner on a sheet label displayed at a particular position on a screen by the display means, the input/display device reading, when the input means moves onto the sheet label, data stored in the storage in relation to the sheet label from the storage, and displaying the data by conducting a change-over operation for the sheet label; a second operation including the input means dragging a particular input field selected from a plurality of input fields displayed at particular positions on a screen by the display means and dropping the particular input field onto the sheet label, and the storage storing data of the particular input field with a relationship established to the sheet label; a third operation including the input means moving in a

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horizontal direction in a sliding manner to cross an input field displayed at a position on a screen by the display means, and the input/display device displaying the input field, the input field being subdivided into segments; a fourth operation including the input means dragging a segment on a screen by the display means and dropping the segment onto the sheet label, and the storage storing data of the segment with a relationship established to the sheet label; a fifth operation including the input means moving from a first point to a second point on an image displayed at a position on a screen by the display means, and the input/display device measuring a distance of movement between the first and the second points and displaying the distance over the image; and a sixth operation including the input means moving to draw a trace beginning at a point on an image displayed at a position on a screen by the display means, and the input/display device rotating the image according to a length and a direction of the trace and displaying the rotated image.

A further aspect of the invention, as recited in claim 28, is directed to a medical treatment support system including an input/display device including input means and display means, and a storage. The input/display device receives input by handwriting. The storage stores data substantially all as medical data. The input means drags a particular input field selected from a plurality of input fields displayed at particular positions on a screen by the display means and drops the particular input field onto a sheet label. The storage stores data of the particular input field with a relationship established to the sheet label.

An application method for supporting a medical treatment system and a medical treatment support system including such features are not taught or suggested by the cited references.

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II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

A. The Montlick and Tanaka References

The Examiner alleges that Montlick would have been combined with Tanaka to form the inventions defined in claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15-17, 24, 25, 27 and 28. However, Applicants submit that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention.

Montlick discloses a method an system for wireless remote information retrieval and pen-based data entry including a central computer system having a relatively large storage capacity and/or access to relatively large storage devices and coupled to a wireless network having a plurality of cells. (See Montlick at Abstract)

Tanaka discloses an information processing apparatus for controlling window positions. (See Tanaka at Abstract)

Applicants respectfully submit that these references would not have been combined as alleged by the Examiner. Indeed, no person of ordinary skill in the art would have considered combining these disparate references, absent impermissible hindsight.

In fact, Applicants submit that the Examiner can point to no motivation or suggestion in the references to urge the combination as alleged by the Examiner. Indeed, contrary to the Examiner's allegations, neither of these references teaches or suggests their combination.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been so motivated to combine the references as alleged by the Examiner. Therefore, the Examiner has failed to make a prima facie case of obviousness.

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Further, neither Montlick nor Tanaka teach or suggest *"the input means moving in a sliding manner on each sheet label displayed at particular positions on a screen by the display means; and the input/display device reading, when the input means moves onto said each sheet label, data stored in said storage in relation to said each sheet label from said storage, and displaying the data by conducting a change-over operation for said each sheet label,"* as recited in independent claim 1.

Montlick and Tanaka, either alone or in combination, also do not teach or suggest any of *"a first operation comprising the input means moving in a sliding manner on a sheet label displayed at a particular position on a screen by the display means, the input/display device reading, when the input means moves onto said sheet label, data stored in the storage in relation to said sheet label from the storage, and displaying the data by conducting a change-over operation for said sheet label; a second operation comprising the input means dragging a particular input field selected from a plurality of input fields displayed at particular positions on a screen by the display means and dropping the particular input field onto said sheet label, and the storage storing data of said particular input field with a relationship established to said sheet label; a third operation comprising the input means moving in a horizontal direction in a sliding manner to cross an input field displayed at a position on a screen by the display means, and the input/display device displaying the input field, the input field being subdivided into segments; a fourth operation comprising the input means dragging a segment on a screen by the display means and dropping the segment onto said sheet label, and the storage storing data of the segment with a relationship established*

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to said sheet label; a fifth operation comprising the input means moving from a first point to a second point on an image displayed at a position on a screen by the display means, and the input/display device measuring a distance of movement between the first and the second points and displaying the distance over the image; and a sixth operation comprising the input means moving to draw a trace beginning at a point on an image displayed at a position on a screen by the display means, and the input/display device rotating the image according to a length and a direction of the trace and displaying the rotated image,” as recited in independent claim 9.

Nor does Montlick and Tanaka teach or suggest that *“the input means drags a particular input field selected from a plurality of input fields displayed at particular positions on a screen by said display means and drops the particular input field onto a sheet label, and said storage stores data of said particular input field with a relationship established to said sheet label,”* as recited in independent claim 28.

The Examiner actually concedes in item 6 on page 7 of the Office Action that neither Montlick, nor Tanaka, nor any combination thereof teaches or suggests the above features. Clearly, there are elements of the claimed invention that are not taught or suggested by the combination of Montlick and Tanaka.

Therefore, Applicant submits that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

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B. The Flatland Reference

The Examiner alleges that Montlick and Tanaka would have been combined with Flatland to form the invention defined in claim 30. However, Applicant submits that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention.

Flatland discloses an augmented whiteboard interface designed for informal office work. (See Flatland at Abstract)

Applicant respectfully submits that these references would not have been combined as alleged by the Examiner. Indeed, these references are completely unrelated, and no person of ordinary skill in the art would have considered combining these disparate references, absent impermissible hindsight.

In fact, Applicant submits that the Examiner can point to no motivation or suggestion in the references to urge the combination as alleged by the Examiner. Indeed, contrary to the Examiner's allegations, neither of these references teaches or suggests their combination.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been so motivated to combine the references as alleged by the Examiner. Therefore, the Examiner has failed to make a prima facie case of obviousness.

As noted above, the Examiner concedes that neither Montlick, nor Tanaka, nor any combination thereof teaches or suggests the several operations previously recited in claim 30.

Rather, the Examiner attempts to rely on Flatland to make up for the deficiencies of Montlick and Tanaka.

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However, the Examiner merely alleges that Flatland teaches or suggests the limitations of claim 30 beginning, "the seventh operation" and "the eighth operation." In fact, the Examiner does not even allege that Flatland or any of the other cited references teach or suggest the first through sixth operations, now recited in independent claim 9. Independent claims 1 and 28 include language similar to the first and second operations, respectively. Indeed, the Examiner actually notes on page 9, item 10 of the Office Action that "the Flatland reference only teaches some of the methods utilized in the claimed invention, but not all of the described operations are taught by the prior art currently of record." (Emphasis added)

Thus, even assuming arguendo that Flatland may disclose "the seventh operation" and "the eighth operation," as alleged by the Examiner, there is no teaching or suggestion in Flatland of any of the first through sixth operations recited in independent claim 9. Indeed, the cited references do not even recognize the desirability or benefit of providing such operations. Therefore, Flatland clearly does not make up for the deficiencies of Montlick and Tanaka described above.

In light of the above, neither Montlick, nor Tanaka, nor Flatland, nor any combination thereof teach or suggest any of "*a first operation comprising the input means moving in a sliding manner on a sheet label displayed at a particular position on a screen by the display means, the input/display device reading, when the input means moves onto said sheet label, data stored in the storage in relation to said sheet label from the storage, and displaying the data by conducting a change-over operation for said sheet label; a second operation comprising the input means dragging a particular input field selected from a plurality of*

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input fields displayed at particular positions on a screen by the display means and dropping the particular input field onto said sheet label, and the storage storing data of said particular input field with a relationship established to said sheet label; a third operation comprising the input means moving in a horizontal direction in a sliding manner to cross an input field displayed at a position on a screen by the display means, and the input/display device displaying the input field, the input field being subdivided into segments; a fourth operation comprising the input means dragging a segment on a screen by the display means and dropping the segment onto said sheet label, and the storage storing data of the segment with a relationship established to said sheet label; a fifth operation comprising the input means moving from a first point to a second point on an image displayed at a position on a screen by the display means, and the input/display device measuring a distance of movement between the first and the second points and displaying the distance over the image; and a sixth operation comprising the input means moving to draw a trace beginning at a point on an image displayed at a position on a screen by the display means, and the input/display device rotating the image according to a length and a direction of the trace and displaying the rotated image,” as recited in independent claim 9. Independent claims 1 and 28 include language similar to the first and second operations, respectively.

Therefore, Applicant submits that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

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C. The Snell et al. Reference

The Examiner alleges that the inventions of claims 4, 5, 11, 14, 19, 20 and 26 are unpatentable over the combination of Montlick and Tanaka in view of Snell et al. However, Applicant submits that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention.

Snell et al. discloses an apparatus and a method for an improved user interface for communicating with implantable medical devices. (See Snell et al. at Abstract)

Applicant respectfully submits that these references would not have been combined as alleged by the Examiner. Indeed, these references are completely unrelated, and no person of ordinary skill in the art would have considered combining these disparate references, absent impermissible hindsight.

In fact, Applicant submits that the Examiner can point to no motivation or suggestion in the references to urge the combination as alleged by the Examiner. Indeed, contrary to the Examiner's allegations, neither of these references teaches or suggests their combination.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been so motivated to combine the references as alleged by the Examiner. Therefore, the Examiner has failed to make a prima facie case of obviousness.

The Examiner concedes that neither Montlick nor Tanaka teach or suggest using character recognition for processing handwritten data inputted by the input device, as in claims 4, 5, 11, 14, 19, 20 and 26. Rather, the Examiner attempts to rely on Snell et al. to make up for the deficiencies of Montlick and Flatland.

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However, Snell et al. fails to make up for the deficiencies of Montlick and Tanaka described above directed toward the first through sixth operations recited in independent claim 9, and likewise regarding the similar language in independent claims 1 and 28.

Indeed, neither Montlick, nor Tanaka, nor Flatland, nor Snell et al., nor any combination thereof, teaches or suggests *"the input means moving in a sliding manner on each sheet label displayed at particular positions on a screen by the display means; and the input/display device reading, when the input means moves onto said each sheet label, data stored in said storage in relation to said each sheet label from said storage, and displaying the data by conducting a change-over operation for said each sheet label,"* as recited in claims 4-5 and 19-20.

Montlick, Tanaka, Flatland, and Snell et al., either alone or in combination, also do not teach or suggest any of *"a first operation comprising the input means moving in a sliding manner on a sheet label displayed at a particular position on a screen by the display means, the input/display device reading, when the input means moves onto said sheet label, data stored in the storage in relation to said sheet label from the storage, and displaying the data by conducting a change-over operation for said sheet label; a second operation comprising the input means dragging a particular input field selected from a plurality of input fields displayed at particular positions on a screen by the display means and dropping the particular input field onto said sheet label, and the storage storing data of said particular input field with a relationship established to said sheet label; a third operation comprising the input means moving in a horizontal direction in a sliding manner to cross an input field displayed at a position on a screen by the display means, and the input/display device*

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displaying the input field, the input field being subdivided into segments; a fourth operation comprising the input means dragging a segment on a screen by the display means and dropping the segment onto said sheet label, and the storage storing data of the segment with a relationship established to said sheet label; a fifth operation comprising the input means moving from a first point to a second point on an image displayed at a position on a screen by the display means, and the input/display device measuring a distance of movement between the first and the second points and displaying the distance over the image; and a sixth operation comprising the input means moving to draw a trace beginning at a point on an image displayed at a position on a screen by the display means, and the input/display device rotating the image according to a length and a direction of the trace and displaying the rotated image,” as recited in claims 11 and 14.

Nor does Montlick, Tanaka, Flatland, or Snell et al. teach or suggest that *“the input means drags a particular input field selected from a plurality of input fields displayed at particular positions on a screen by said display means and drops the particular input field onto a sheet label, and said storage stores data of said particular input field with a relationship established to said sheet label,”* as recited in claim 26.

Thus, even assuming arguendo that Snell et al. discloses using character recognition for processing handwritten data inputted by the input device, as alleged by the Examiner, there is no teaching or suggestion in Snell et al. of any of the first through sixth operations recited in the claimed invention. Indeed, the cited references do not even recognize the desirability or benefit of providing such operations. Therefore, Snell et al. clearly does not make up for the deficiencies of Montlick, Tanaka, and Flatland.

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In light of the above, Applicant submits that these references would not have been combined and even if combined, the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

III. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

The Examiner has objected to claims 3, 6-8, 11-12, 18, 21-23 and 29. Claims 3, 11-12 and 29 have been amended to address the Examiner's objections thereto.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-30, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

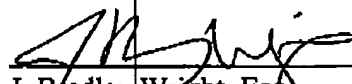
Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.116 by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner Steven E. Holton, Group Art Unit 2673 at fax number (571) 273-8300 this 13th day of March, 2006.



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